

What is claimed is:

1. An inertial barrier for protecting a vehicle from a roadway hazard, comprising:

a container having an outer sidewall and an interior volume, and a mating end; and

5 a pedestal having an outer sidewall and a mating end, the pedestal being adapted to mate with and support the container in a vertical stacking orientation to together form said inertial barrier;

wherein one of the pedestal and container mating ends includes a projecting portion, and the other of the pedestal and container mating ends includes a recess
10 portion which is complementary to said projecting portion, so that when said container and said pedestal are joined together in said vertical stacking orientation, said projecting portion is engaged into said recess portion to form an interlocking relationship between the container and the pedestal.

2. The inertial barrier as recited in Claim 1, wherein said container further comprises an open end which communicates with the interior volume of the container, so that the container interior volume may be filled with a ballasting material.

3. The inertial barrier as recited in Claim 2, wherein said ballasting material comprises a dispersible particulate material.

4. The inertial barrier as recited in Claim 3, wherein said dispersible particulate material comprises sand.
5. The inertial barrier as recited in Claim 2, wherein said container further comprises a lip circumferentially disposed about the open end thereof, said barrier further comprising a lid for covering the exposed open end of said container, said lip engaging said lid to secure the lid in a closed position.
6. The inertial barrier as recited in Claim 1, wherein the pedestal further comprises an open end, which comprises a base of said barrier, said barrier having an axial height and said pedestal having a width at least equal to the width of said barrier at any other location along said axial height.
7. The inertial barrier as recited in Claim 6, wherein the barrier at an axial location where the mating ends of each of the container and the pedestal are joined has a width smaller than the width at said barrier base.
8. The inertial barrier as recited in Claim 7, wherein a portion of the outer sidewall of the pedestal forms an inwardly tapered conic section, in order to provide increased strength in compression for the barrier in the vicinity of the respective mating ends of each of the pedestal and the container.
9. The inertial barrier as recited in Claim 1, wherein each of said container and said pedestal is comprised of a frangible material.
10. The inertial barrier as recited in Claim 1, wherein the mating end of each of said container and said pedestal comprises both a projecting portion and a

recess portion, such that when the pedestal and the container are stacked together,
the projecting portion of the container is inserted into the recess portion of the
5 pedestal, and the projecting portion of the pedestal is inserted into the recess
portion of the container, the respective projecting and recess portions of each of the
container and the pedestal being complementarily shaped.

11. An inertial barrier for attenuating the energy of an errant vehicle,
comprising:

a pedestal; and

a container disposed on said pedestal in a vertical stacking relationship to
5 form a frangible barrier;

wherein each of the container and the pedestal have an interlocking
geometry at a joint therebetween, to prevent sideways movement between the
container and the pedestal.

12. A pedestal for use in an inertial barrier combination for attenuating
the energy of an errant vehicle, comprising:

an outer sidewall;

a mating end; which is adapted to mate with a container in a vertical
5 stacking orientation to together form said inertial barrier combination, wherein the
pedestal supports the container; and

interlocking geometry on said mating end, so that when said pedestal is
joined with said container, said interlocking geometry engages complementary
interlocking geometry on a mating end of said container to secure the pedestal and
10 the container together.

13. The pedestal as recited in Claim 12, wherein a portion of the outer

sidewall forms an inwardly tapered conic section, in order to provide increased strength in compression for the inertial barrier in a vicinity of the mating end of the pedestal.

14. The pedestal as recited in Claim 12, and further comprising an open end which forms a base of said pedestal.

15. The pedestal as recited in Claim 12, wherein said mating end comprises a projecting portion and a recess portion, each of which are adapted to engage complementary recess portions and projecting portions on a mating end of the container.

16. A container for use in an inertial barrier combination for attenuating the energy of an errant vehicle, comprising:

an outer sidewall;

5 a mating end; which is adapted to mate with a pedestal in a vertical stacking orientation to together form said inertial barrier combination, wherein the pedestal supports the container; and

interlocking geometry on said mating end, so that when said container is joined with said pedestal, said interlocking geometry engages complementary interlocking geometry on a mating end of said pedestal to secure the pedestal and
10 the container together.

17. The container as recited in Claim 16, and further comprising an open end which communicates with an interior volume of said container, said interior volume being fillable with a dispersible ballasting material through said open end.

18. The container as recited in Claim 17, wherein said dispersible ballasting material comprises sand.

19. The container as recited in Claim 17, wherein said container further comprises a lip circumferentially disposed about the open end thereof, said container further comprising a lid for covering the exposed open end of said container, said lip engaging said lid to secure the lid in a closed position.

20. The container as recited in Claim 16, wherein said mating end comprises a projecting portion and a recess portion, each of which are adapted to engage complementary recess portions and projecting portions on a mating end of the container.

21. An inertial barrier system for protecting vehicles from a roadway hazard, comprising:

a plurality of inertial barrier units arranged in a predetermined array, at least one of said inertial barrier units being of a multi-piece type comprising:

5 a container having an outer sidewall, an interior volume, and a mating end; and

a pedestal having an outer sidewall and a mating end, the pedestal being adapted to mate with and support the container in a vertical stacking orientation to together form said inertial barrier unit;

10 wherein one of the pedestal and container mating ends includes a projecting portion, and the other of the pedestal and container mating ends includes a recess portion which is complementary to said projecting portion, so that when said container and said pedestal are joined together in said vertical stacking orientation, said projecting portion is engaged into said recess portion to form an

15 interlocking relationship between the container and the pedestal.

22. The inertial barrier system as recited in Claim 21, wherein a plurality of said inertial barrier units are of said multi-piece type.

23. The inertial barrier system as recited in Claim 22, wherein the containers of said multi-piece inertial barrier units are filled to varying levels with a dispersible ballasting material, resulting in inertial barrier units of varying weights.